

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 9, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, and the application still contains claims 1-7. As the number of independent claims and the total number of claims have not changed, no additional fee is required.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for various reasons. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are being submitted herewith, each designated as a "Replacement Sheet."

The disclosure was objected to because of certain informalities which have been corrected by amendment to the specification. Also corrected by amendment to the specification was the Examiner's objection to claim 5.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Begg (U.S. Patent No. 4,972,523) and claims 2-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Begg (U.S. Patent No. 4,972,523).

The references cited by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest such a unique combination as described in the claims of the present application, as amended. The patent to Begg was cited by the Examiner to show a necktie removable attachable to a button-down shirt having a row of buttons comprising a first attachment means provided on the rear surface of the wide end of the tie and a second attachment means provided on the rear surface of the narrow end. However, it should be appreciated that the necktie of Begg differs significantly from the necktie of the present invention. First and foremost, the necktie of Begg is not an all-inclusive unit – it requires a separate element: the display end retaining portion 10b. This retaining portion 10b, being a small piece, may be easily lost or misplaced. Furthermore, by virtue of the attachment means described in Begg, the retaining portion 10b is visible in profile (see Figs. 1 and 3), particularly

in instances where the necktie might be disturbed, such as on a windy day. The attachment means of the present invention, on the other hand, are completely transparent to view since the buttons are hidden within the button-holes, thereby presenting a more aesthetically pleasing and streamlined appearance.

Furthermore, the attachment means of the present invention allow for the fixed attachment of the narrow end of the necktie to the shirt, as well as the fixed attachment of the wide end of the necktie to the narrow end of the necktie. The device described in Begg only allows for the fixed attachment of the wide end of the necktie to the shirt, thereby allowing the narrow end of the necktie to slide relative to the shirt and the wide end. The significance of the attachment means of the present invention is that the narrow end of the tie remains attached to the wide end regardless of the disposition or orientation of the tie. For example, if the wearer is bending over and the wide end bunches up, the narrow end will remain in place. Furthermore, unique styles are possible, such as by attaching the tie at various points to the buttons of the shirt to create ripples or waves in the necktie.

The other references cited by the Examiner have been considered, but do not teach or suggest the unique system and method disclosed and claimed herein by amendment.

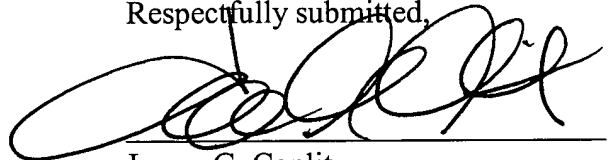
For the aforementioned reasons, applicant submits that amended claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references cited by the Examiner taken alone or in combination. None of these references teach or suggest the unique combination of the a necktie having the button attachment means on both the narrow end and the wide end of the tie so as to allow attachment of the necktie to a button-down shirt. Independent claim 7 has similarly been amended so as to

include the same limitations provided in claim 1 (amended) and therefore patentably distinguish over the references cited by the Examiner.

Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2-6 patentably distinguish over the references of record for the same reason as claim 1 (amended), and are therefore also in condition for immediate allowance.

In light of the amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James G. Coplit', is written over a horizontal line.

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